

August 30, 2013

Weekly Views

The Sagamore of the Wabash Award, the highest honor which can be bestowed by Governor Michael R. Pence, was awarded to Phil Slavens for his distinguished service to both the State of Indiana and his community. Mr. Slavens worked for the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) for 44 years. Earlier this month, staff from around the Department gathered for a retirement party where he was presented an award for his years of service and a state flag accompanied by a certificate for meritorious service by Commissioner Bruce Lemmon.

Ken Osborne, Stores Clerk at the Indiana State Prison, was recognized by Governor Pence along with many other emergency workers who aided in the rescue of six-year-old Nathan Woessner at the Indiana Dunes. The ceremony honored the emergency responders who saved Nathan's life on July 12, 2013. Emergency responders moved 400 tons of sand, most of it by shovel, before finding Nathan beneath 11 feet of sand.

PEN Product's Lisa Williams and Doug Evans facilitated a three day job readiness workshop at Folsom Prison in California. Lisa and Doug were sent by the National Institute of Corrections as part of an ongoing initiative to train corrections professionals in the area of Workforce Development. These regional trainings are focused on incorporating re-entry training into the daily correctional industries operation.

The Rockville Correctional Facility (RCF) held two blood drives for the Indiana Blood Center. Staff contributed 32 units of blood which will assist in the potential saving of 96 lives. RCF staff are always ready to raise their sleeves to save a life. The next RCF blood drive is scheduled for December 11, 2013.

The Plainfield Correctional Facility has donated 50 pounds of vegetables to the Hendricks County Community. Sergeant Bobby Paige delivered tomatoes, sweet peppers, squash, cucumbers, and watermelon to The Gathering Place. Since July, the facility has donated over 3300 pounds of vegetables from the garden to local charities.

A reception was held at the Pendleton Correctional Facility to honor Lieutenant Gary Burke who is retiring after 21 years of service to the Department. Congratulations Gary and have a great retirement!

Miami Correctional Facility's Christian Church members donated \$500 to Urban Outreach of Kokomo and \$500 Bethel Community Outreach Program in Indianapolis. This is the second time the church has gathered funds for a worthwhile cause. A few weeks ago, the church also donated \$1,900 to help the people of Mozambique obtain life-giving water through the building of a well in their village.

The Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) opened their new Wheels for the World program. Steven Crooks, Program Manager for Wheels for the World visited the facility to help kick off the operation by advising and training offender workers. CIF's goal is to turn out 30 refurbished wheelchairs a month for this charitable program. Wheels for the World provide wheelchairs to people who need them around the world.

The need for blood is critical during the long Labor Day Holiday Weekend and staff at Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) pulled up their sleeves to help. The Indiana Blood Center coordinated the blood draw with 26 staffers providing the gift of life. WVCF is part of the 2013 IDOC Blood Drive Challenge but PIO Rich Larsen said the real winners are those who benefit from the donations. He added accidents and medical emergencies don't take holidays. We need blood every minute, every day of the year.

Staff Development and Training (SD&T) participated in the State House Market Day. SD&T Staff set up an informational booth to inform other agencies of upcoming 2014 Leadership/Supervisory Programs available to attend. This was a great opportunity for the Department to offer support other state agencies and was very well received.

Staff at Westville Correctional Facility gathered for the facility's quarterly assembly to receive announcements and recognize fellow team members receiving awards. Superintendent Mark Levenhagen addressed the staff about recent accomplishments and shared anticipation for the upcoming ACA audit. Years of service certificates were presented to staff with five to 35 years. A special ovation was given to 44-year employee Ruth Grott, Records Room Specialist.

Aramark dining staff, along with resident kitchen staff, prepared a wonderful meal for residents at the Indianapolis Re-entry Educational Facility in observance of the Labor Day holiday. Residents were treated to a lunch of barbecue chicken leg quarters, hamburgers, baked beans, potato salad, soda, and chocolate covered brownies.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility (PNJCF) Superintendent Linda Commons announced the promotion of Youth Development Specialist Sergeants Terri Washington and William Lehman. Superintendent Commons remarked, "We are excited about these promotions and the impact these fine custody representatives will have on the culture of our facility. They represent the future of DYS."

Senior Parole Agent John Lorenz, of the Re-Entry Parole District #1 partnered with the Mooresville Police Department as well as the Morgan County Sheriff's Department to execute search warrants in Mooresville, IN.

The operation resulted in the discovery of a marijuana growing operation, a methamphetamine operation, as well as an assortment of firearms and other dangerous weapons being removed from the streets. The execution of the search warrants also spawned several other investigations into other illegal operations in the area.

Offenders from New Castle Correctional Facility's PLUS Unit donated 15 hand-made Bird Houses to Henry County Memorial Park. The park has requested more houses.